IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 2, 3, and 5 as follows:

2. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide, comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

3. (Amended) A composition comprising the polypeptide of Claim 2, wherein the polypeptide is conjugated with at least one binding agent selected from the group consisting of a monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, phage-display evolved antibody, and in-vitro evolved antibody.

5. (Amended) A composition for treating prostate cancer, comprising the polypeptide of ~~Claim~~ 2, conjugated with a binding agent capable of inhibiting binding of the polypeptide to its receptor, thereby inhibiting an ability of the polypeptide to induce prostate cancer cell growth, the binding agent selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibody, partially or fully humanized monoclonal antibody, polyclonal antibody, antibody selected by phage display selection, single chain antibody, and in-vitro evolved antibody.

Please add new claims 6-29.

6. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of Claim 2.

7. (New) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

8. (New) An isolated DNA comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

9. (New) An isolated DNA differing from the DNA sequence of Claim 8 due to point mutations, deletions, insertions, and rearrangements.

10. (New) An isolated DNA, comprising a base sequence that is identical or complementary to a segment of at least 200 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:3.

11. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the at least one binding agent is conjugated with a reporter enzyme.

12. (New) The composition of Claim 4, wherein the reporter enzyme is selected from the group consisting of alkaline phosphates and horseradish peroxidase.

13. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the at least one binding agent is tagged to a fluorophore.

14. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the at least one binding agent is tagged to a chemiluminescent compound or a radionuclide.

15. (New) The composition of Claim 14, wherein the chemiluminescent compound comprises luciferase or green-fluorescent protein.

16. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is conjugated with at least two binding agents selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibodies, single chain antibodies, phage-display evolved antibodies, and in-vitro evolved antibodies, the at least two binding agents bound to different epitopes of the peptide such that binding of the first binding agent does not compromise binding of the second binding agent.

17. (New) The composition of Claim 16, wherein at least one of the at least two binding agents is conjugated with a reporter enzyme.

18. (New) The composition of Claim 17, wherein the reporter enzyme is selected from the group consisting of alkaline phosphates and horseradish peroxidase.

19. (New) The composition of Claim 16, wherein at least one of the at least two binding agents is tagged to a fluorophore.

20. (New) The composition of Claim 16, wherein at least one of the at least two binding agents is tagged to a chemiluminescent compound or a radionuclide.

21. (New) The composition of Claim 20, wherein the chemiluminescent compound comprises luciferase or green-fluorescent protein.

22. (New) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:3.

23. (New) A recombinant cell transfected with the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:3.

24. (New) A complex, comprising a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, and an antibody which binds to the polypeptide.

25. (New) A method of detecting an NEM polypeptide in sample, comprising exposing the sample to an NEM antibody in an assay selected from the group consisting of radioimmunoassay, an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, a sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, a fluoroimmunoassay, and a chemiluminescent assay.

26. (New) A method for preparing an NEM polypeptide comprising

transforming a cell with the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:3 to produce a NEM polypeptide under conditions suitable for the expression of the NEM polypeptide.

27. (New) A method of treating prostate cancer in a subject, comprising administering a binding agent capable of inhibiting binding of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 to its receptor, thereby inhibiting an ability of the polypeptide to induce prostate cancer cell growth, the binding agent being an antibody selected from the group

consisting of monoclonal antibody, partially or fully humanized monoclonal antibody, polyclonal antibody, antibody selected by phage display selection, single chain antibody, and in-vitro evolved antibody.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the binding agent comprises an antibody selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibody, partially or fully humanized monoclonal antibody, polyclonal antibody, antibody selected by phage display selection, single chain antibody, and in-vitro evolved antibodies.

29. (New) The method of Claim 27, further comprising tagging the binding agent with cell-killing radionuclides prior to administering the binding agent to the subject.